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## THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

"GOODWILL TO MEN," is written upon every face we meet nowadays. Every second man is thinking of how he may give pleasure to another, and the kindly thought is reflected in his face. If this spirit could be perpetuated, and held within proper restraint, we should have a foretaste of the millennium. As it is the wave of goodwill is of such brief duration, and is so immediately succeeded by a chilling depression, that we take it as something abnormal, and do not dream of following out the plans made during the temporary aberration of the Christmas season. We deem it sufficient to answer—"Oh that was during the Christmas season"—when reminded of some promise made about that time. We are not responsible for what was promised under the excitement of that time!

And yet it is at this season that our better self comes uppermost. There is more of the real man shown during the first three weeks of December than in any other period of the year. Charles Dickens was right when he told us in his own inimitable way, that even the hardened crust that held the heart down, was not proof against the expansion caused by the temperature of the Christmas season. The true self, the self that years of the abuse of our better nature has barred away from the best of men, comes stealing out now. We do not mind, in fact we enjoy it, so long as the real self is not seen by others. There are hundreds of men with whom you rub shoulders, and whom you consider among the hardest in the business world, who are doing good by stealth these days. Think well of the men you are meeting. If you see an unusual light in their eyes, do not set it down to the fact that they have made an extra good bargain. Look closely, and you will see something of the better self of the man. You will see in him what Christ sees all the time; what you have never suspected had a home there; and what, if it were only developed, would make this hard man to be a man greatly beloved.

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### DR. CUYLER ON REVIVALS.

For some time there has been discussion upon the need of revival in the Church. We mean the Church universal, not any particular section of it. For the most part the discussion has taken a pessimistic turn, and has dwelt upon the small returns for the great amount of labor expended every year. If there has been a decrease in any department, this has been pointed out, and reasons for the falling off have been given from every standpoint imaginable.

In the multitude of this depressing talk there has come to us one clear voice, and it points the way to better things. The venerable Dr. Cuyler, who speaks, in a recent number of *The Evangelist*, tells us that we have been preaching too much to Christians, and have not dwelt sufficiently upon the sinfulness of sin in the sight of God. Now Dr. Cuyler has been one of the most successful of the ministers of Christ. He has ever recognized himself as but a minister, doing his Master's bidding. Humbly, yet with the utmost confidence, as one who knew he had a message, he has spoken to men, and he has spoken with effect. Looking back now, and searching for the ground of the success that has attended his ministry, he finds it in the fact that he has spoken to men as sinners, and has never sought to conceal God's eternal hatred of sin.

There is, at the present time, a strong movement to awaken Christians to a sense of their personal responsibility for the maintenance of the work in Christ's Kingdom. The effort of The Forward Movement is directed mainly to the upbuilding of the Christians. In this way it is hoped to arouse an interest in the unconverted, and to lead to personal work among them. But, Dr. Cuyler says, there is nothing that so thoroughly awakens comatose Christians as the sight of the conversion of sinners. Is he right, and is this the cause of the slow progress of this great and good movement? It is worth an enquiry.

### ANOTHER "FAMOUS SCOT."

We have often called attention to the famous Scots series and we have much pleasure in doing so again, especially in connection with the name of Drummond. (Henry Drummond by James V. Simpson. Edinburgh:—Oliphant, Anderson and Ferner, 16.) If there was less fiction read and more good biography we believe it would be much better for the individual and the community. These publishers have shown considerable enterprise in issuing a series dealing with the lives of men who have helped to make Scotland great and influential. There are about forty volumes in the series now, and they can be got at about fifty cents a volume; that is for twenty dollars a young man can have a large library of Scottish biography. Those who through their ancestors or directly trace their origin to Scotland should take an interest in these biographies. Many of the men who appear in this portrait gallery are of interest and importance from the standpoint of the larger life of humanity; for example Knox, Carlyle, Home and others. In this series all sides of human thought are represented: Theology, Science, Art, Literature and Politics.

The publishers tell us that the Colonies have not done well by this series, which means either that we do not take much interest in good cheap literature, or the books have not been well placed and vigorously pushed in the colonial market. Of course a series varies in quality, and it is not necessary for one person to buy every number; but there is sufficient variety to suit all tastes, and each can make his own selection. The preacher may find help in all these volumes, but especially in the lives of John Knox, Thomas Carlyle, Norman McLeod, Thomas Chalmers, the Erskines, David Livingstone, etc. There is nothing more profitable for a minister's address to young people than a brief vivid sketch of a great man's career, with its struggles and triumph.

It is not so long since Henry Drummond passed away from us. His memory is still fresh and sweet. He was a noble man, a modern saint and true christian gentleman. He manifested his christian life in many forms, as an earnest student, a traveller, an expositor of science, a faithful christian worker; and at last a brave patient sufferer. Those who have read his life by Dr. George A. Smith may still find additional information in this smaller book; and those who have not access to the larger work will find here a clear interesting sketch of Drummond's character and career. So many have been helped by Henry Drummond's books that the story of his life should find a cordial welcome.

The statements sent out by Dr. Warden, telling the exact condition of the Church funds, will surely have the effect of stirring up the people to a sense of the situation. We keep the Church in the position of the merchant who runs his business on borrowed capital. We have money in the bank, but will not draw it to run our business. We get a paltry three per cent. for the few dollars we have there, and we pay ten and twelve per cent. for money to run our business. How long would the merchant hold out who ran his business in that fashion. We force our treasurer to arrange with the banks for an advance every year. We tie his hands by delaying, for the most paltry reasons, our returns, and the cost, all told, will not be far short of the percentage we have named. Had we not one of the best financiers in Canada managing the Church funds the result would be a still greater crippling of the work we have undertaken. Let every church treasurer make his returns promptly on the first of each month, and the working force of the church would be immensely increased.

Dr. Menzies has returned to Honan; Mr. Goforth is on his way there; Mrs. Menzies expects to join her husband in a few months, and in the early summer Mrs. Goforth will go back to the work in Honan. There is a fitness in the return of the male missionaries, just as soon as the way is clear; and when it was announced that Dr. Menzies was to go back in the early autumn, it was felt to be right. But it is hard for the women; the mothers who have seen threatening hands raised to destroy their little ones, to return to that people again. When they go the hearts of many a mother will go out in sympathy towards them, and many prayers will rise for their protection, and the protection of their babes in that strange land.